

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4048

USNATO FOR AMBASSADOR TOON AND SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, APER, ERD, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: BILATERAL MARITIME RELATIONS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 4008, (B) STATE 038520, (C) 76 STATE
308920, (D) 76 STATE 280031

1. AFTER AGREEMENT REACHED ON SUBSTANTIVE MARITIME ISSUES
AND JUST PRIOR TO SIGNING OF THREE MEMORANDA, PARA 1, REFTEL
A, IGOR AVERIN DURING SESSION ON MARCH 25 RAISED THREE
"ADMINISTRATIVE" PROBLEMS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE
AUTOMATICALLY RESOLVED NOW THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS WERE
SETTLED. FIRST WAS THE USG REFUSAL TO ISSUE A VISA FOR
MR. GICHUNTS WHO IS TO WORK IN SOVFRACHT NY, REFTEL B.
SECOND WAS THE INTERVENTION BY THE DEPT WITH WASHINGTON
LANDLORD OPPOSING RENTAL OF PREMISES TO THE USSR MARITIME
ATTACHE OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE MAIN EMBASSY BUILDING
(REFTEL C). THIRD WAS THE "THREATENING" NOTE OF THE STATE
DEPT ON THE POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF ONE MARITIME REP FROM
SOVFRACHT (REFTEL D). AVERIN ALLEGED THAT ALL THREE ISSUES
HAD BEEN RELATED BY USG TO THE THEN EXISTING PROBLEMS IN
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MARITIME RELATIONS.

2. USDEL CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THESE MATTERS WERE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE DEPT. HE SAID THAT IF THESE
ACTIONS WERE TAKEN ON BASIS OF MARITIME RELATIONS THEN THE
STATUS OF THESE RELATIONS HAD OBVIOUSLY IMPROVED AS A
RESULT OF THE TALKS. IT WAS PROMISED THAT THE MATTERS WOULD

BE REFERRED BY OUR EMBASSY TO THE STATE DEPT FOR APPROPRIATE
CONSIDERATION.

3. AVERIN THEN EXPRESSED SURPRISE THESE ISSUES COULD NOT BE
RESOLVED AT ONCE BY USDEL AS HE THOUGHT THEY HAD ARISING IN
MARAD. HE THREATENED TO ASK THE MFA TO RAISE THEM AT THE
TIME OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT, AND SAID THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE RECIPROCAL MEASURES IF
THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOT RESOLVED. SINCE THE ISSUES WERE
NOT YET SETTLED, AVERIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CALL MFA.
UPON HIS RETURN, AVERIN STATED THAT MFA ALSO DID NOT WANT
TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION AND INTERFERE IN MARITIME AFFAIRS.
MFA HOPED THE PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A SHORT PERIOD,
I.E., TWO TO THREE WEEKS, AND WITHOUT "DIPLOMATIC NOISE",
THAT IS NEITHER DIPLOMATIC NOTES NOR LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS
WERE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IF THE SITUATIONS TURN OUT TO
BE "DIFFICULT", AVERIN SAID WE WILL USE "DIPLOMATIC
FORMS OF RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES."

4. USDEL CHAIRMAN SAID THAT REPLIES SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED
THROUGH MARITIME CHANNELS. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN HIS RE-
COLLECTION THE QUESTION OF THE PREMISES FOR THE SOVIET
MARITIME ATTACHE INVOLVED MATTERS OTHER THAN STATUS OF BILATERAL
MARITIME RELATIONS.

5. MASLOV (SOVINFLOT) THEN ADDED THAT THE US SIDE HAD INTRODUCED
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MARITIME AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.
THUS, HE SAID, WE ARE BOUND IN A CERTAIN WAY TO THAT
CONNECTION: THE RESULTS JUST ACHIEVED REMAIN
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JOINED TO ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.

6. THE THREE MEMORANDA WERE THEN SIGNED WITHOUT FURTHER
DISCUSSION.

7. COMMENT: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FIRST
AND THIRD ISSUED RAISED BY AVERIN WERE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE
STATUS OF OUR MARITIME RELATIONS. REFTEL C MAKES CLEAR,
HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE OF RENTAL OF PREMISES FOR THE SOVIET
MARITIME ATTACHE ALSO INVOLVED INTER ALIA RECIPROCITY AND SOVIET
FAILURE TO GET PRIOR STATE DEPT PERMISSION. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF RESOLUTION ON ALL THREE
ISSUES.

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Message Attributes

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